

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 26, 2004 with claims 1 through 20. Claims 1 through 20 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hart (United States Patent Number 5,164,542) in view of Ishikawa (United States Patent Number 4,874,907).

Independent Claims 1, 8 and 14

Independent claims 1, 8, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hart in view of Ishikawa. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner acknowledges that Hart does not specifically teach one or more solder pads for connecting said modem module to said carrier assembly, but asserts that Ishikawa teaches solder pads used to electrically and mechanically connect components to a circuit board (col. 2, lines 4-9).

Applicants note that neither Hart nor Ishikawa provide many details regarding a modem. Applicants also note that the conventional method for attaching a modem to a motherboard is by integrating the modem circuitry into the motherboard, thereby requiring that a certified motherboard be recertified following the integration. (See, page 1, lines 13-27, of the originally filed specification.) In one aspect of the present invention, a modem module is provided that may be attached to a motherboard without requiring recertification of the motherboard. Hart and Ishikawa, however, do not disclose or suggest one or more solder pads for connecting a modem module to a carrier assembly. In fact, the prior art *teaches away* from the present invention *by teaching to integrate a modem into a motherboard without the use of a modem module or carrier assembly*. Independent claims 1, 8, and 14 require one or more solder pads for connecting said modem module to said carrier assembly.

Thus, Hart and Ishikawa, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest one or more solder pads for connecting said modem module to said carrier assembly, as required by independent claims 1, 8, and 14.

Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-13 and 15-20

Dependent claims 2-7, 9-13, and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hart in view of Ishikawa.

Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 15-20 are dependent on claims 1, 8, and 14, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Hart and Ishikawa, alone or in combination, because of their dependency from independent claims 1, 8, and 14 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-20, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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